SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 4, 1904.

Secret History of Today

What Was Behind the Teer's

us the publication by the maned Tear of All the mpt calling upon the and dismantle their

ame question was asked: this rescript. pharescript to add that, seesaary to add that, seesaary to add that, so of a few sentimental ad and the United States, alto put faith in a demiss actually the prelude actent liberties of Fingel, the armies of the feel, and to a combined great Christian powers armed empire in the

was, I turned Muzaffir's difficulty into my

opportunity.

"Listen to me," I said to the trembling enruch, as soon as he had finished confiding his tale to me, "I can save you, and will save you, but only on one condition. And that is, that you procure me a private and confidential audience of the Sultan, and that you use your influence with him to grant the request I have to make."

Muzaffir, who, like all his tribe, was a miser, seemed overloyed at this cheap method of rewarding me. Of course, he wished to know the object I had in view

method of rewarding me. Of course, he wished to know the oblect I had in view.

"I am going to ask the Sultan to employ me on a secret pollitical mission outside the Turkish empire, a mission from which you have nothing to fear. Your business is to pursuade the Sultan to trust me-let that be enough.

Twist and wriggle as he would, the eunuch found he could get nothing more out of me. He gave in, and his influence over the mind of Abdul Hamid being unbounded, I quickly found myself face to face with the lean, dark gaunt-eyed Asiatic who styles himself Commander of the Faithful and Shadow of God on Earth.

Abdul Hamid proved to be in a more suspicious mood than my friend in Paris, As soon as I mentioned the peace rescript he interrupted me.

"I am not going to disarm. I know what the Christian powers are by this time. They always begin to talk about peace



nust judge me by what I have done already. Two days never heard my name. Now I am here, alone with you, ded revolver in my pocket.' The Sultan started violently."

Your excellency, that the Tear have just Smarck's book retion. I was casting fellout, when my sections, calling me to to constantinople, are required by Musuach highest in the Hamid.

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The worldly wisdom
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Isken in by a story
on one of the most
alliss in Paris. I
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wite statesmen who
the personal idiosynmight to use in their
tes of it.

when they are secretly preparing to at-tack somebody."
"I am arisid your Majesty is right. The question is, what is the real design under-tying this particular piece of hypocrisy." lying this particular piece of hypochesy. "I know that, too," was the unexpected reply. The Russians have decided to turn their attention to China. There they can do all they want with a bundred thousand men. So it is to their interest to get rid of the burden of a great army which will not be wanted for a generation.

This war an ingenious idea but it did not satisfy me, any more than the semi-ificial one had done. I had ventured to there

"If that were ril, sire, there would be no occasion for tills metodramatic appeal to the other powers. There is nothing to hinder Russia from reducing her armiements by one-half tomorrow. No one dreams of attacking her, tier army is kept to the first of the state o

The Sultan appeared struck by this rea-

rounds
Then what do you say is the object behind this rescript? he demanded.
I'do not know But I undertake to find out if your Majesty will furnish me with the necessary means.
Abdul Hamid gave me a distrustful clares. "It is an expensive thing to buy infor-mation from the Council of State," he

grumbled. You are right, sire. And the higher

mation from the Council of State," negrambled.

"You are right, sire. And the higher one goes, the more expensive it becomes it is clear that this move has been engineered by persons who are able to manage the Crar binnself, and such persons are not likely to sell their own game for much less than a million roubles.

Abdul Hamid quivered at the mention of this sum as though I had demanded one of the eyes out of his head.

Why should I go to this expense?" he oblecte. "I have aiready told you that I am not going to disarm."

"The question is whether you are willing to see Germany and Austria disarm, in viril to see Germany and the see a fine of the austria disarm. The Solian still hesitated.

"The olian still hesitated."

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"The Solian still hesitated."

"Your Kajesty must judge me by what I have done already. Two days ago you had rever hear my procket." He Sultan started violently—" disarred with a loaded revaiver in my pocket." He Sultan started violently—" disarred in the Sultan started violently—" disarred in the Sultan started violently—" disarred from the Sultan started violently—" disarred from the Sultan to the Commander of the Falthful sat silar to disarred from the Sultan to his embassador in Russia and a draft on the Commander of the Falthful sat silances of Petersburg.

My intention was to go to Bussia in the character of a French financial agent, the representative of a syndicate of Paris bankers on the lookaut for profitable concessions from the govern

the astuteness and is statesmen who is statesmen who bersonal idiosyn. The only person I proposed to take into them.

The only person I proposed to take into the personal idiosyn. The only person I proposed to take into the personal idiosyn. The only person I proposed to take into the personal influences and the truth of the many confidence was the Turkish Embassion in Petersburg, on whom I relied for information as to the personal influences at week in the Russian court.

It was to the Embassador therefore the detective than to the information as to the personal influences at the truth in the information as to the personal influences at the truth in the information as to the personal influences at which is the information as to the personal influences at the information as to the personal influences at the information as the personal influences at the information as to the personal influences at the information as to the personal influences at the information as to the personal influences at the information as the personal influences at the information as to the personal influences at the information as to the personal influences at the information as the personal information informati

about this rescript," he remarked. "It is certainly a new departure. You disbelieve in the sincerity of the Czar, I suppose?"

lieve in the sincerity of the Czar, I suppose?"

"Not in the sincerity of the Czar, I suppose?"

"Not in the sincerity of the Czar, but in the sincerity of those who make his benevolent sentiments the cloak of their own secret policy." I corrected

The Embassador nodded approvingly.

You have put your finger on the weak spot." he responded. "The danger in dealing with this rescript is that the other powers may take it seriously owing to their trust in the personal character of Nicholas. In reality Nicholas is merely an instrument in the hands of three persons, without whose advice he does nothing, and two of those three are themselves creatures of the Council of State." And the three persons are?"

"They are his mother the Dowager Empress Dagmar: Pobledonostzeff, the Frocurator of the Holy Synod, and the Grand Duke — the Czar's constant companion and bosom friend."

At the sound of such names as these I was almost appalled at the outset. The character of the Dowager Empress, as much as her rank, rendered her unapproachable. M. Pobledonostzeff, although a bigot, was not likely to be a traitor The Grand Duke was an unknown quantity, as far as I was concerned, but it did not seem very probable that a personage in his position would prove accessible to a bribe.

It never does to despair too soon. I put the outset of the position would prove accessible to a bribe.

bribe.

It never does to despair too soon. I put
the question which long experience of the
dark side of human nature has rendered
habitual with me—
"Has the Grand Duke any vices?"
"He gambles a good deal in the Yacht
club."

I drew a breath of satisfaction. Of all men the gambler is the easiest to corrupt, because to him alone money is every-thing and because there comes a time to every gambler when money is not to be had.

every gambler when money is not to be had.

"Who are his gambling companions?"
was my next question.
The Embassador named several Russian nobles of high rank, among whom the leading spirit seemed to be a Prince Boris Mendelleff. I was going on with my inquiries when his Excellency checked me.
"I have told you enough, it seems to me, to enable you to go by yourself. In the meantime I am the Embassador of the Sultan, not his secret service agent, and I wish to know nothing that might compromise me."

Sultan, not his secret service agent, and I wish to know nothing that might compromise me? I respected his scruples, though they were such as some Russian diplomatists would scarcely have understood and proceeded to form my own plans for making the acquaintance of Prince Mendelleff.

Fortunately the Russians are as unsuspicious in politics. My skill as a brioge player, a game in which I have no living superor, proved a ready passport into the gaming circles of Petersburg and it was not long before I found myself sitting at the same card table with the intimate of the Grand Duke.

I was lucky enough to lose a considerable sum to him, which I haid with a good grace, and he could not do less than invite me to his house. I accepted the invitation with an eagerness which must have struck him as rather ill-bred, and we drove there together. Over a bottle of champagne I became confidential. I avowed myself to be a money lender, as well as a composition hunter, and instead that I should be prepared to pay handsomely for introductions to clients of high station.

Mendelleff took the balt like a hangry pike. He was the first to mention the name of the Grand Duke, doubtless knowing that his imperial Highness would be only too pleased to meet such an accommodating person as I appeared to be. A bargain was struck, and Mendelleff promised to let me know as soon as he had arranged for my reception by his august baren.

The meeting took place in the Prince's own house. Cards were produced, the stakes were exceedingly high, and rather

tion, if that is what your Righness means, I am, as I have said, a financier, and my only object is to make money."

I see. You wish me to influence the Government on your behait?

"Not exactly that, sir I am in search of information-information which will enable me to operate successfully on the Paris Bourse."

The Grand Duke looked rather relieved, it was evident that he did not consider this very serious.

"And what is the information you want?" he gaked.

"It is very simple. I want to know the real bearing of the recent peace rescript of the Tsat. Let me explain," I went on quickly raising my hand as I saw he was about to speak. "I know the surface explanation of the matter, but I do not believe it. I do not believe that this rescript would ever have seen the light unless the Council of State had some purpose of their own to serve by it, and I want to know what that purpose is. It is not to leasen the burden of their armaments; they could do that. If they choose, tomorrow. This is an appeal to the other powers to disarm and I want to know why it has been made."

The Grand Duke listened to this speech in silence, bitting his lips with an air of indecision from which I augured a good result.

"You seem to know a good deal, M. de

in stlence, biting his lips with an air of indectsion from which I augured a good result.

"You seem to know a good deal. M de Sarthe," he said sullenly. "Surely you must know that I am not in the secrets of our Foreign Office."

"I believe that, of course, If you say so, sir But I believe as well that the Tsar did not draw up this document without your encouragement, and that in encouraging the Tsar you acted as the instrument of the Council of State. I am entitled to suppose that you were not a blind instrument, but that you knew pretty well why the Council were so, ready to full in with the enthusiastic intuities of Nicholas II."

It was a boil throat, but it went home. The Grand Duke gave me a startled look, and relapsed into a long spell of silent pondering Finally he said.

"And suppose I were to tell you something that you consider it worth a million roubles to sear, what guarantee have I that you would not herray my secret? What proof have I even now that you are not a spy set on by my enemies in the Council of State?"

"I will give your Highness that proof on condition that If it is satisfactory, you will accept my proposul."

"I consent."

"I consert my proposals"
"I consert to the major of the Sublime Porte, when your communication, not to me, but to the Embassador of the Sublime Porte, when you will hardly suspect of being in the confidence of M. Poldedonostzen."

With these words I ruse to my feet, Stupefied for a moment, the Grand Duke recovered himself in time to make a detaining gesture.

"Do not go, monsieur. What you have said completely satisfies me. It appears that I am required to betray my country."

"That depends," I returned, smoothly. "If the Council of State is plotting to be tray the Tsar, as I understand it is, I should have thought it consistent with the honor of a Russian Prince of the blood to take part in defeating their unworthy schemes."

This was evidently a new view to his imperial Highness, and I could see by the expression of his face that it was telling powerfully.

expression or mis ince that it we cannot be powerfully. "Well," he said at length, it seems to me that you have my word. When do you propose to pay me this money?"

"Now, this moment, if your Highness pleases,"

"Count it out, then," was the brief in-

junction

I obeyed. It was a singular scene as I stood there laying down pile after pile of greasy ten thousand couble notes on a richly iniald table, while one of the highest personages in the proudest court of Europe or Asia stood beside me, his tall figure glistening with gold ornaments and jeweled decorations, and his

was passing through
Not daring to intrust my secret to a companion. I was obliged to go without sleep from the moment of leaving the Ural mountains behind. The utmost indulgence I could allow myself was such a light doze as left the attention ready to leap into activity at the least provocation. At every stopping place I got out and made a careful examination of the neighborhood. The one thing I had to foar was the night. In the Cimmertan darkness of a northern winter I might have been carried past an army without perceiving it.

perceiving it

The train by which I traveled was a long one, and it was increased before we entered Asia by the addition of an open car like a cattle-truck containing peasants whom I took to be prisoners. I had to be careful not to show myself too inquisitive, but I noticed at the various stations along the track that they were all young men of about the same age, and that they got in and out in obedience to orders given by officials who were armed and whom I imagined to be warders or police.

I did not consider it safe to hold much

I did not consider it safe to hold much conversation with my fellow passengers. It was probable that more than one spy was among them. I had an uneasy sensation of being watched by invisible eyes, and I knew that if I once aroused real suspicion by my behavior, my doom was sealed.

So the days and nights passed, and the train crept on its way across the silence of the frozen continent. I strained my eyes in vain across the blinding waste, and strained my ears through the night No sight or sound rewarded me save the solitary huts of the railway men and the monotonous tinkle of sleighbells.

the course of the night!

This discovery acted on my thred brain like magic. In an instant I was again on the alert cantious investigator whose decisions were as swift as his intuitions were unerring. Without hesitating I returned to my carriage, removed my luggage with the aid of a porter, and ordered a sleight of drive me to the hote!

The guard of the train came up to me, as I was making these preparations, and asked me if I were not going on. Not by your train. I replied blandly. I shall break my lowney here, and look about me. By what I can see this place seems likely to be an important commercial center, such as I have come in search of."

rallway. The man's face turned as black as a thunder-cloud.

"You cannot go that way," he snorted.

He hesitated.

"Because it is impassable. The horses will break down."

We will go on till they do," I answered sternly. "And let this be your last attempt to disobey me. At the next I send you back, and go on without you."

The man slunk forward, muttering curses, which I affected not to hear. But I had not yet frightened him sufficiently. At the next halt one of the drivers came to me and reported that a horse had gone lame.

animal.

"Go," I said sternly, "Take the horse back with you, and take rations for three days. Do not let me see you again."

The driver looked thoroughly crestfallen. He slouched back to his comrades without another word.

I waited till half an hour had passed, then I rose and walked over to the campfire, round which my followers were seated, the driver among them.

"How is it that you are still here?" I demanded.

The horse is all right again," was the surly answer
"So much the worse for you." I took
out my revolver in one hand, and my

out of the way region, you perhaps have not heard that France and Russia are in military alliance, and, besides, that the Tsar has declared his intention to dis-arm, so that your preparations here have ceased to be of the slightest consequence to anybody."

"I know that it is my duty to arrest you, at the very least," he persisted. "As to that, you will do as you please. It will sound well in Paris that every prospector who ventures into Siberia with a view of developing the resources of the country exposes himself to the treatment of t spy. M. Witte will find it takes some persuasion to secure another French loan."

loan."

It is needless to give further details of a conversation in which the ignorance of the Russian gave me a very great advantage over him. I am vain enough to plume myself on having made use of the treacherous rescript to out-maneuver its authors. In saying that, of course, I do not refer to Nicholas II., who perhaps did not even know of the existence of the hidden camp.

did not even know of the existence of the hidden camp.

In the end the Cossack officer decided to escort me back to the town where I had left, the train, and hand me over to the civil authorities, a decision which was assisted by the usual methods of persuasion in the East. My friend the Prefect, already predisposed in my favor, required



"There at my feet, along the widening valley, lay a double line of rails, and across the level space stretched low banks and ditches the lines of a vast encampment, capable of accommodating half a million men."

out of ringe."

I do not think I have ever seen a man get through his preparations in less time than then. Long before the allotted time was up, he was well out of reach, galloping down the slope of the hill.

In every expedition through a wild country there comes a moment which decides who is to be master. That moment past I had no fear of further trouble. I was now able to unbend with the golde! I informed him that I expected to find gold, and promised him a rich reward if I succeeded with his aid.

"Russia preparing enormous concealed camp in Siberia, beside rallway, to hide forces when nominally disbanded. I have seen it."





"It was a singular scene, as I stood t here laying down pile after pile of greasy ten-thousand-rouble notes on a richly inlaid table."

against my wish I won steadily, while the losses of the Grand Duke were se-vere enough to disturb his good humor. Mendelleff artfully seized the right mo-ment to present me as a friend in need, and to take off the rest of the party, leaving us together.

The Grand Duke lost no time in putting

The Grand Duke lost no time in putting me to the proof

"You are a banker, are you not, M. de Sarthe."

De Sarthe was the name under which I had crossed the freatier.

"At least, I represent some important innareal houses." I realised.

"Oh, spare me that kind of thing, his Imperial Highness returned impatiently, let us take the usual comedy for granted, and tell me frankly how much you are prepared to lend me.

"I do not know how much you want, sir but I have any sum up to a million rubies at your service."

The Grand Duke's eyes sparkled.

"M. de Sarthe, you are a friend, indeed, he exclaimed. But what are your terms for this advance."

"As far as your pocket is concerned, nothing. I do not even ask that this lean shall ever be repaid.

He started at me for a moment in astonishment. Then all at once his expression changed, and his voice dropped to a whisper.

"Ah," I understand. This is some af-

whisper.
"Ah! I understand. This is some affair of the secret service. You are offering me a bribe, I suppose."
I do not come from the Third Sec-

dark Slavonian features flushed with ex-cilement and greed. As the last note left my fluggre, he bent down and breathed in my car-"Take the Siberian rallway and use

Jour eyes."

I am ready to admit that my first feeling after hearing those few words which had cost me a hundred thousand roubles each, was one of slekening disappointment. But a very little consideration served to show me that the Grand Duke had told me enough to place success within my reach, and that the information which he thus put it in my power to acquire by my own observation was calculated to be of greater value than any mere statement made at second hand.

Somewhere along the vast, just con-

Somewhere along the vast, just com-pleted track which connects the Baitic with the Pacific lay the key to the true purpose of that famous rescript which had imposed on all the statesmen of the world, and only vigilance and circum-spection were required to find it.

spection were required to find it.

Never was there a journey more fraught with peril than that which I now undertook. I had to disappear from civilization for an unknown length of time, and plunge into a region shrouded in mysterious dread, the land of prison and exile: the gloomy realm which forms the background to the showy life of the capital beside the Neva, like a dark subtergranean dungeon hidden beneath a glittering palace.

ering palace From Siberia few enemies of the Rus-